

Message Text

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73/40

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 IO-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-01 EB-04

COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-01 CIEP-01 OMB-01 SY-04 OC-01

CCO-00 SCCT-01 /069 W

----- 015350

O 021148Z NOV 74 ZFF-4

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3033

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 0940 VICE 094)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS AO

SUBJ: CABINDA SITUATION CALM

REF: LUANDA 938 AND PREVIOUS

1. CABINDA GULF MANAGER TOLD ME THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER TWO THAT CABINDA CITY IS BACK TO NORMAL AND THAT THE COMPANY SENT ITS EMPLOYEES TO WORK ON NOVEMBER TWO RATHER THAN WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER FOUR AS HAD BEEN THE INTENTION EARLIER. ACCORDING TO THE MANAGER THE ONLY ROADBLOCK IN EVIDENCE ON NOVEMBER TWO WAS ONE MANNED BY THE MILITARY; NO FLEC PARTISANS WERE ACTIVE ON THE ROAD FROM THE TOWN TO GULF INSTALLATIONS.

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2. BASED ON A QUICK INVESTIGATION IT MADE AROUND CABINDA, GULF HAS COME TO THE TENTATIVE CONCLUSION THAT THE ENTIRE INCIDENT STARTED BECAUSE FLEC DECIDED TO SPONSOR A STRIKE AND DEMONSTRATION TO PROVIDE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF ITS STRENGTH AND THE DEPTH OF ITS SUPPORT IN CABINDA. MPLA SUPPORTERS OBJECTED TO THE WHOLE IDEA AND CLASHES ENSUED.

3. O COMERCIO OF LUANDA, WHICH SENT A REPORTER TO CABINDA, STATED ON NOVEMBER TWO THAT THE REASON FOR THE DISTURBANCES WAS THE ARRIVAL IN CABINDA OF AN MPLA DELEGATION TO WORK OUT DETAILS LOCALLY OF THE CEASE FIRE SIGNED RECENTLY BETWEEN THE MPLA AND THE ANGOLAN JUNTA. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE FLEC TOOK EXCEPTION TO AN MPLA ANNOUNCEMENT IT WOULD SOON OPEN AN OFFICE IN CABINDA.

4. O COMERCIO REPORTS A LARGE ARMED MPLA CONTINGENT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CABINDA. THE STORY DOES NOT ELABORATE. THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR DENIED THE STORY BUT CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF A NUMBER OF MPLA ACTIVISTS IN THE TOWN.

5. THE O COMERCIO CORRESPONDENT ALSO REPORTED HE HAD HEARD THAT THE SPECIAL TROOPS (TE'S), BLACK CABINDANS RECRUITED BY THE PORTUGUESE ARMY FOR RURAL DEFENSE AND PATROL DUTY IN CABINDA, HAVE GONE OVER TO FLEC WITH THEIR ARMS. HERE AGAIN, THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR DENIES THE STORY, BUT ADDS THAT TE SENTIMENTS MAY WELL LIE WITH FLEC.

6. THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE ORDERED FLEC OFFICES TO BE OCCUPIED OCTOBER 31 BECAUSE OF THE MOVEMENT'S "ILLEGAL AND CRIMINAL RESORT TO VIOLENCE."

7. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE WAS MORE SHOUTING THAN SHOOTING DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS NO ONE WAS KILLED AND ONLY FIVE INJURED TURNED UP AT THE HOSPITAL IN CABINDA.

8. FINALLY, THE TIDEX EMPLOYEE WHO RADIOED HIS OFFICE IN LAGOS IN A PANIC DECIDED AFTER ALL TO REMAIN IN HIS HOUSE. CONTRARY TO WHAT WE WERE TOLD ABOUT HIS EVACUATION (LUANDA 937), HE REMAINED AT HOME THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 31.

KILLORAN

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